

U.S. House and Senate Notification
Monday, April 5, 2010

To: Congressional Health Staff

From: Amy Hall
Director, Office of Legislation
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Subject: PPACA Implementation Notice for Ambulance Services

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is working to expeditiously implement many of the provisions included in the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* (PPACA). CMS recently released instructions to our contractors to implement the following three ambulance provisions included in PPACA.

Ground Ambulance Add-on Payments

PPACA extends previous statutory provisions that increase the ambulance fee schedule amounts for covered ground ambulance transports originating in rural areas by 3 percent, and for covered ground ambulance transports originating in non-rural areas by 2 percent, retroactive to January 1, 2010 and lasting through December 31, 2010.

Air Ambulance Services

In addition, the new law extends a provision for air ambulance services originating in areas that were previously designated as rural for which the designation changed under new geographic classifications that began in 2007. Under the extension, such services that were designated as rural on December 31, 2006 will continue to be designated and paid as rural for the period from January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010.

“Super Rural” Ambulance Add-on Payments

Finally, PPACA extends for the same period the “super rural” bonus payments for ambulance services originating in certain rural areas with particularly low population densities.

If you have questions about this notification, please contact the CMS Office of Legislation.

Thank you.